

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 MC-02 COME-00 EB-07 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SAM-01 L-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 EURE-00

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O 051513Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9672

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

OASF WASHDC

OASD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, NO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

REFS: (A) OSLO 1463 (B) OSLO 1593

1. NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS ASKED EMBASSY MAY 5 TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE:
BEGIN TEXT

A. DUE TO CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THREE OF THE EUROPEAN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN THE F-16 PROGRAM, IT IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE DATE OF SIGNATURE, 15 MAY 1975, CANNOT BE COMPLIED WITH.
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B. A REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT FROM THE FOUR MINISTERS MAY BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES. THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE FOUR MINISTERS DURING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE EUROGROUP 7 MAY 1975. A REQUEST FOR ONE MONTH POSTPONEMENT IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE.

C. YOUR REACTION TO SUCH A REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT IS URGENTLY NEEDED. THE MATTER IS URGENT -- REPEAT URGENT. PLEASE FORWARD YOUR REPLY TO THE CHAIRMAN MNFP STEERING COMMITTEE, GENERAL S. HAMRE, THROUGH MAAG BRUSSELS NOT LATER THAN 6 MAY 1975 1800 HRS EUROPEAN TIME.
END TEXT

2. MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOSTERVOLL, IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME THIS MORNING (MAY 5) WAS GREATLY AGITATED OVER HIS WEEKEND MEETING WITH MOD'S OF DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE MESSAGE IN PARAGRAPH 1. AS OUTLINED IN PARA 5 OF REF A, ANY "SUBSTANTIAL" DELAY IN DECISION (MOD SOURCES SUGGEST ABOUT 2 WEEKS) COULD: (A) FORECLOSE THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER ISSUE PRIOR TO SUMMER RECESS; (B) CAUSE SEVERE EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE NORWEGIAN MOD; AND (C) MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE CONSORTIUM BY FORCING NORWAY TO WITHDRAW.

3. FOSTERVOLL REVEALED THAT ONE REASON FOR DELAY IS PROPOSED TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TO CANADA AND US FOR DISCUSSIONS OF, AMONG OTHER ISSUES, AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT. ANOTHER EASON, FOSTERVOLL ADDED, IS TINDEMANS' DESIRE TO TEST FRANCH CONCERN FOR TRUE "EUROPEAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY" BY SUGGESTING THAT FRANCE OFFER TO COOPERATE WITH MRCA CONSORTIUM. PRESUMABLY, A POSITIVE FRENCH REACTION WOULD ENHANCE F-1 CHANCES.

4. MINISTER FOSTERVOLL INTENDS TO ADVISE THE BELGIAN MOD WHEN HE MEETS HIM IN LONDON THIS EVENING PRIOR TO THE EUROGROUP MEETING THAT THE MESSAGE REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE DECISION DATE ON THE F-16 HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON. HE WILL FURTHER MAKE KNOWN THE RELUCTANCE THE NORWEGIANS HAVE IN ENTERTAINING SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT IT MAY HAVE ON THEIR ABILITY TO GO FORWARD WITH THE CONSORTIUM. HE FURTHER INTENDS TO IMPRESS HIS COLLEAGUES WITH THE NECESSITY TO MAKE A DECISION.
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ON
WITHIN THE DEADLINE SET BY THE U.S. IN AT A SEPARATE MEETING ON 7 MAY WITH THE MOD'S OF BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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